

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system having a redundant topology for communication between one or more devices and a central ~~hub~~ switch comprising: a central ~~hub~~ switch having a plurality of ports; a first end node having a first port and a second port; a first active cable connected to the first port in the end node and a first port of the plurality of ports in the ~~hubswitch~~; and, a second active cable connected to the second port in the end node and a second port of the plurality of ports in the ~~hubswitch~~, wherein the first active cable and the second active cable transmit a same first packet of data to the first end node and further wherein the first port, second port, and the plurality of ports comprise Ethernet ports.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising: a second end node having a first Ethernet port and a second Ethernet port; a third active cable connected to the first Ethernet port in the second end node and a third Ethernet port in the ~~hubswitch~~; and, a fourth active cable connected to the second Ethernet port in the second end node and a fourth Ethernet port in the ~~hubswitch~~, wherein the third active cable and the fourth active cable transmit a same second packet of data to the second end node.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising: a plurality of additional end nodes, each end node having a first Ethernet port and a second Ethernet port, and, a plurality of additional active cables, each active cable connecting one of the first Ethernet port and the second Ethernet port of one of the plurality of additional end nodes to a corresponding Ethernet port of the plurality of Ethernet ports in the ~~hubswitch~~.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the first end node is configured to perform an integrity check to a packet of data received on the first active cable and is configured to perform an integrity check on a packet of data received on the second active cable.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the integrity check to a packet of data received on the first active cable is a CRC check, and wherein the integrity check to a packet of data received on the second active cable is a CRC check.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the first active cable is provided a first route from the first end node to the ~~hub~~switch, and the second active cable is provided a second route from the first end node to the ~~hub~~switch, and wherein the first route is different than the second route.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3 wherein each active cable connecting a specific one of the plurality of end nodes to the ~~hub~~switch is provided with a different route from the specific one of the plurality of end nodes to the ~~hub~~switch.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the ~~hub~~switch is connected to an Internet.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the ~~hub~~switch is connected to an Intranet.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3 wherein the ~~hub~~switch is connected to an Internet.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3 wherein the ~~hub~~switch is connected to an Intranet.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3 wherein the first end node and the plurality of end nodes are configured in a star configuration with each end node having two cable connections to the ~~hub~~switch.

13. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein in one of the first end node and the plurality of end nodes is a programmable logic controller.

14. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein in one of the first end node and the plurality of end nodes is an IO device.

15. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein in one of the first end node and the plurality of end nodes is a bridge.

16. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein in one of the first end node and the plurality of end nodes is a gateway.

17. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein in one of the first end node and the plurality of end nodes is a relay.

18. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein in one of the first end node and the plurality of end nodes is a motor starter.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the end node utilizes one of the packet of data received from the first active cable and the packet of data received from the second active cable that is first determined by the end node to be valid.

20. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the end node only performs an integrity check on a second one of the packet received from the first active cable and the packet received by the second active cable if an integrity check on a first one of the packet received from the first active cable and the packet received of the second active cable fails.

21. (Currently Amended) An end node for use in a system having a redundant topology comprising: a device having a first upstream connection port for upstream connection via an active first cable to one of a another device and a ~~hub~~switch, a second upstream connection port for upstream connection via a second active cable to the one of a another device and a ~~hub~~switch, a first downstream connection port for downstream connection via a third active cable to another device, and a second downstream connection port for downstream connection via a fourth active cable to another device, wherein each of the connection ports comprise Ethernet connection ports.

22. (Currently Amended) The end node of claim 21 further comprising: a third upstream Ethernet connection port for upstream ~~for upstream~~ connection via a fifth active cable to one of a another device and a ~~hub~~switch.

23. (Currently Amended) The end node of claim 21 further comprising: a third downstream Ethernet connection port for downstream connection via a sixth active cable to a another device.

24. (Currently Amended) The end node of claim 21 further comprising: a plurality of additional upstream Ethernet connection ports, each of the plurality of additional upstream

Ethernet connections ports for upstream connection via a corresponding first plurality of additional active cables to one of a another device and a ~~hub~~switch.

25. (Currently Amended) The end node of claim 24 further comprising: a plurality of additional downstream Ethernet connection ports, each of the plurality of downstream Ethernet connection ports for downstream connection via a corresponding second plurality of additional active cables to another device.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Original) The end node of claim 21 wherein the device is a programmable logic controller.

28. (Original) The end node of claim 21 wherein the device is a bridge.

29. (Original) The end node of claim 21 wherein the device is a gateway.

30. (Original) The end node of claim 21 wherein the device is a relay.

31. (Original) The end node of claim 21 wherein the device is a motor starter.

32. (Original) The end node of claim 21 wherein the device is an IO module.

33. (Currently Amended) A system having a redundant daisy chained configuration comprising: a central ~~hub~~switch; and, a first chain of end nodes including a first end node having a first upstream Ethernet port, a second upstream Ethernet port, a first downstream Ethernet port and a second downstream Ethernet port, a first active cable connecting the first Ethernet port of the first end node to the ~~hub~~switch, a second active cable connecting the second upstream Ethernet port to the ~~hub~~switch, a third active cable connecting the first downstream Ethernet port to a first upstream Ethernet port of a second end node in the first chain, and a fourth active cable connecting the second downstream Ethernet port to a second upstream Ethernet port of the second end node.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein each end node in the first chain utilizes a first valid message received by the end node over any of the active cables connected to the end node.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33 wherein the second node of the first chain includes a first downstream Ethernet port and a second downstream Ethernet port.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35 further comprising a fifth active cable connecting the first downstream Ethernet port of the second node to a first upstream Ethernet port of a third end node in the first chain, and a sixth active cable connecting the second downstream Ethernet port of the second end node in the first chain to a second upstream Ethernet port in the third end node in the first chain.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33 further comprising a second chain of end nodes, the second chain of end nodes including a first end node having a first upstream Ethernet port, a second upstream Ethernet port, a first downstream Ethernet port and a second downstream Ethernet port, a first active cable connecting the first Ethernet port of the first end node to the hubswitch, a second active cable connecting the second upstream Ethernet port to the hubswitch, a third active cable connecting the first downstream Ethernet port to a first upstream Ethernet port of a second end node in the second chain, and a fourth active cable connecting the second downstream Ethernet port to a second upstream Ethernet port of the second end node.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37 further comprising a fifth active cable connecting the first downstream Ethernet port of the second node in the second chain to a first upstream Ethernet port of a third end node in the second chain, and a sixth active cable connecting the second downstream Ethernet port of the second end node in the second chain to a second upstream Ethernet port in the third end node in the second chain.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33 further comprising a plurality of chains of end nodes connected to the hubswitch, wherein each of said plurality of chains include a first end node having a first upstream Ethernet port, a second upstream Ethernet port, a first downstream Ethernet port and a second downstream Ethernet port, a first active cable connecting the first Ethernet port of the first end node to the hubswitch, a second active cable connecting the second upstream Ethernet port to the hubswitch, a third active cable connecting the first downstream Ethernet port to a first upstream Ethernet port of a second end node in each chain, and a fourth active cable connecting the second downstream Ethernet port to a second upstream Ethernet port of the second end node in each chain.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein at least one of the end nodes in the plurality of chains of end nodes is a programmable logic controller.

41. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein at least one of the end nodes in the plurality of chains of end nodes is an IO module.

42. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein at least one of the end nodes in the plurality of chains of end nodes is a bridge.

43. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein at least one of the end nodes in the plurality of chains of end nodes is a gateway.

44. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein at least one of the end nodes in the plurality of chains of end nodes is a motor starter.

45. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein at least one of the end nodes in the plurality of chains of end nodes is a relay.

46. (Currently Amended) An end node for use in a redundant network system comprising a device having a first Ethernet port for connecting to the system to receive a first message over a first active cable, and a second Ethernet port for connecting to the system to receive the first message over a second active cable wherein the device is configured to utilize one of the first message received over the first active cable and the first message received over the second active cable that first passes an integrity check performed by the device.

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) The end node of claim 46 wherein the device can transmit a second message over the first active cable through the first Ethernet port, and transmit the second message over the second active cable through the second Ethernet port.

49. (Original) The end node of claim 46 wherein the device is a programmable logic controller.

50. (Original) The end node of claim 46 wherein the device is an IO module.

52. (Original) The end node of claim 46 wherein the device is a bridge.

53. (Original) The end node of claim 46 wherein the device is a gateway.
54. (Original) The end node of claim 46 wherein the device is a motor starter.
55. (Original) The end node of claim 46 wherein the device is a relay.